

**Remarks**

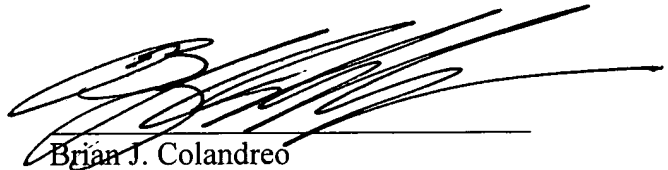
Original claims 1-14 remain in the application, all of which have been amended. This preliminary amendment is submitted to e.g., eliminate multiple dependencies and to correct translation-based and regional issues. The specification has been amended to add priority information, an abstract, and appropriate headings. No new matter has been added.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, should any fees be due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2121. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues to be resolved with respect to the above-identified application, they are invited to telephone the undersigned at their earliest convenience so that such issues may be resolved telephonically.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian J. Colandreo  
Reg. No. 42,427  
Attorney for Applicants  
Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pfleger  
55 South Commercial Street  
Manchester, NH 03101  
603-668-6560